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DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

COPPER OBJECTS OF THE COPPER ESKIMO—A REPLY

MY paper on "Native Copper Objects of the Copper Eskimo," published in *Indian Notes and Monographs* of the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, has called forth a criticism by Mr. Jenness which appears in the April-June issue of the *American Anthropologist*. Doubtless Mr. Jenness has reason for his remarks, and perhaps will explain more fully in a future number of the *Anthropologist* just what he means when he says that "for nearly twenty years the Copper Eskimos have been in almost continuous contact with white men." Perhaps, too, he will tell us where these isolated primitive people found a market for the copper objects which he says they manufactured for sale in Coronation Gulf in 1911.

Mr. Jenness claims that a copper tomahawk modeled after the Indian weapon was found in Coronation Gulf in the year named. Surely the idea of the manufacture of this weapon for sale was not obtained from any of the sub-Arctic Athapascan Indians. Perhaps some white tourists in the Gulf ordered it.

Mr. Stefánsson commanded the Canadian Arctic Expedition of which Mr. Jenness was a member, and is regarded as an authority on the Copper Eskimo culture, being both an able ethnologist and a truthful chronicler. I quote a few references in Mr. Stefánsson's writings in answer to some of Mr. Jenness's criticisms.

Respecting the contact of the Copper Eskimo with the whites:

May 15, 1910 was the third day after our discovery of the Dolphin and Union Straits Eskimo.¹

As for the contact of the Victoria Island Eskimo with the American whalers, there is little to be said. Only one out of the thirteen tribes visited by my party had ever been seen by the whalers, and they were first seen by the schooner *Olga* in 1906, when she wintered behind Bell island near the southwest corner of Victoria island. They were revisited by the *Olga* in 1908, but by no other ship, and the total contact of the *Olga's* crew with the people did not amount to a week of continuous association.²

As to Mr. Jenness's criticism of the copper knife illustrated in my paper (pl. v, a), I wish to call attention to fig. 46 of Stefánsson's *Anderson*

¹ *My Life with the Eskimo*, chap. xii, p. 188.

² *Ibid.*, chap. xii, p. 202.

Arctic Expedition: Preliminary Ethnological Report, published by the American Museum of Natural History in 1914, which represents a copper knife similar to the one referred to by me. Mr. Jenness claims that this type of knife "never, so far as we know, had a copper blade." He also states that he is not sure whether harpoons like the one shown in my plate ix, fig. 1, ever had copper shanks, in reference to which I would invite attention to the following direct statement in Stefánsson's *Anderson Arctic Expedition* (p. 113):

Of the tribes whom we visited, the *Kanhiryuarminut* are paramountly the makers of weapons and implements of copper. From the deposits northeast of Prince Albert Sound and from pieces of float which they pick up here and there they make long-bladed hunting knives, the ordinary half-moon shaped woman's knives, crooked knives for whittling purposes, copper rods for the foreshafts of seal harpoons, points of ice chisels, etc.

I could quote various other references, but those given seem to be sufficient to meet Mr. Jenness's undue criticism.

DONALD A. CADZOW

DENTAL DECORATION

MY attention was recently attracted by an article in the *American Anthropologist* for 1913 (vol. 15, no. 3) entitled "Precolumbian Decoration of the Teeth in Ecuador" because I happened to be aware of certain curious fashions of dental decoration formerly prevalent in the Philippines. It turned out that the Ecuadorian and Philippine fashions are practically identical. But in the article it is stated, "So far as we are aware, the type of decoration represented by the insertion of stone or metal into the teeth in the manner about to be described is not found outside of ancient America." I realize that after so many years it is quite possible that someone else may have called to your attention, or to that of the author of the article, the fact that similar practices have been common in the Orient also, but even then it is not probable that he would have happened to run across the same references to it in literature.

The following are from *The Philippines*, by Blair and Robertson:

They color their teeth and bore them through from side to side, placing pegs of gold in the holes.—Vol. 2, p. 223, "Letter from Sevilla." (I suspect this means "from the front side to the back side" and moreover, that the "boring through" is perhaps an error.)

They used to, and do even yet, insert gold between their teeth as an ornament. They all cover their teeth with a varnish, either lustrous black or bright red. . . . From the edge to the middle of the tooth they neatly bore a hole, which they afterwards fill with gold, so that this drop or point of gold remains as a